

SOME  
T H O U G H T S  
O N T H E  
G E N E R A L I M P R O V E M E N T  
O F  
I R E L A N D,

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W I T H  
A S C H E M E o f a S O C I E T Y,  
F O R

Carrying on all I M P R O V E M E N T S,

In a more extensive and effectual Manner, than has  
hitherto been done.

Humbly submitted to the C O N S I D E R A T I O N of the Right  
Honourable and Honourable

The L O R D S and C O M M O N S,  
In P A R L I A M E N T A s s e m b l e d.

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T H E S E C O N D E D I T I O N.

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SOME  
THOUGHTS  
ON THE  
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT  
OF  
*IRELAND, &c.*

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*



F the Freedom of this Address, from a Person unknown, may seem to require an Apology; I hope the Importance of the Subject, will be allowed to plead for me.

It can't be deny'd, but that there are several Regulations, which are much wanted, and many Improvements, which might be usefully carry'd on, in this Kingdom: I shall mention only such as appear to me of most Consequence.

1. The Numbers of Poor, which go about from House to House (begging from some, and stealing from others, and bringing up their Children to the same Trade of Idleness and Theft) are in themselves a great Nuisance; and at the same Time, bring on a very heavy Charge upon the Honest and Industrious Part of the Community.

Now for this Evil, there can be no Remedy so proper or effectual, as the erecting of Work-houses in all our principal Towns; and furnishing them with Materials and Tools, for carrying on such different Kinds of Manufactures, as are suitable to the Weakness and Infirmities of the real Poor, or the Strength and Sturdiness of the Lusty Vagrant.

Here the old or disabled, might be comfortably maintained by easy kinds of Labour; the Young trained up to such Industry as their infant Years will allow; the Sick and Maimed restored to their Health and Limbs, by proper Medicine and Care; and the sturdy lazy Sluggard, by hard Fare and due Correction, be compelled to work, according to his Strength.

I am told that the *Dutch* don't suffer any of their Poor to beg at all; but maintain them all in such Houses: And by keeping them under proper Regulations, and furnishing them with suitable Kinds of Work, the State reaps considerable Advantages from the several Manufactures, which are there carried on: In particular, the Nets and other Utensils necessary for their Fisheries, are chiefly supplied from hence, at very low Rates.

2. An Hospital also in every County, for the Reception, Maintenance and Education of Foundlings, would not only prevent such shocking Crimes, as Women murdering their own Off-spring; but also be a Means of bringing up many Children to Virtue and Industry, who are now bred to nothing but idle or dissolute Courses, or starved, and perish before their Time.

3. There



3. There cannot be conceived any Improvement of greater Service to the Trade and Commerce of this Kingdom, than the opening an easy and thorough Communication between the several Parts of it: Where-ever this can be effected, by means of an Inland Navigation, the Benefits arising from it would be so great, that no Expence should be judged too great, that shall be found necessary to accomplish it: And where a Navigation is not practicable, there good and convenient Roads should be carried on from one Town to another, thro' the whole Kingdom.

Carriage is a great Draw-back upon the Value of all our Commodities, but especially on such as are Bulky and Cumberfome; and till we can make this cheap and easy, every thing necessary for our Food and Clothing, and all the Materials for our several Manufactures, must ever come dear to our Markets.

This Improvement, it must be allowed, has been for some Years carried on, by the Trustees of the Inland Navigation, and Turnpike Roads; usefully and honestly in some Places; I wish I could say the same in all; but unless it be done in a more extensive Manner, than at present, it will be many Years before the Kingdom will feel the Advantage of it.

4. Our Country abounds with many large Loughs and Boggs, barren Heaths and unprofitable Mountains. Would not the draining the one, and reclaiming the other, be of infinite Service to us, by the Acquisition of so much new Land, as well as by the Improvement of our Air and Climate?

When one Gentleman purchases from another, he may take pleasure in the Thought of adding to his own Estate, but he adds nothing to the Kingdom all the while; because the other loses as much as he gains. It is only the passing of Land from one Hand to another, in a kind of Circulation, as Money and Bills pass among Merchants. But as that Merchant, who imports a Quantity of real Bullion, may be truly said to bring new Treasure into the Kingdom;



so, that Person, who reclaims a barren Heath or Mountain; or draws a rich Mineral out of its Bowels; or, by draining a Lough or Bogg, makes dry Land to appear, where Water was before; may be very properly said to add so much new Land, or Wealth to the Kingdom. Works of this Nature may be called a kind of Creation, and ought always to meet with a suitable Incouragement, both in Honour and Profit, from the Publick.

Some Nations have taken great Glory to themselves, and been at vast Expence, both of Men and Money, in order to acquire new Territories, and extend their Dominion into foreign Countries: But half the Expence laid out at home, in the Improvement of their own Country, would generally prove a more valuable and secure Purchase.

Few private Persons indeed, are able for Undertakings of this Nature: And though one may be able and willing, yet perhaps his Neighbour may be neither; by which Means such Works are generally at a Stand; and must continue so, to the end of Time, unless you will interpose your Authority, to compel the several Parties (who will be the Gainers by it) to join in the Expence; and will also lay some Share of the Burthen upon the Publick.

5. It is well known, that our Seas are stocked with Plenty of wholesome Fish, that our Neighbours, particularly the *Dutch*, *French*, and *Danes*, carry on a considerable Trade, by Means of the Fish, which they take yearly upon the Coasts of *Scotland* and *Ireland*.

By this Trade they maintain and imploy their Poor at home, breed up Hands for their Navigation, and carry on a large foreign Trade; to the full as beneficial, as any of those that arise from the Growths or Manufactures of their respective Countries.

We see *Great Britain* at length very wisely forming Societies, and giving Premiums to its People, to encourage them to fall into this Branch of Business.

Why

Why should not we also endeavour, to reap some of those Advantages, which our Situation affords us, in a peculiar Degree? Is it not most unaccountable Indolence, to neglect a Trade held out to us by Providence, and which we see our foreign Neighbours make so considerable a Profit by?

6. A great Imperfection may be observed in our Methods of breeding up our several Manufacturers and inferior Tradesmen. In other Countries they serve a long Apprenticeship, and work as Journeymen for some Years, under skilful Masters, before they are allowed to set up for themselves.

The several distinct Trades are also generally carried on, in distinct Towns and Villages, where little else is minded, but the Business and Improvement of that particular Trade they profess; by which Means, each distinct Trade is advanced to the greatest Nicety and Perfection.

Whereas with us, few serve a regular Apprenticeship to any Trade. There are indeed some Bye-Laws in our Corporations for that Purpose, but I have not heard of any general Law of that Kind, which extends its Influence over the whole Kingdom.

Except in our Corporations, I believe, every Master is at Liberty to take an Apprentice, for as long or as short a Time as he pleases; and every Man sets up in any Branch of Business he thinks fit, without having served as an Apprentice, or worked as a Journeyman at it.

Neither do our Tradesmen associate in Towns and Villages, but are generally found dispersed over the Country; where each of them is fond of occupying a Bit of Land, and will needs be dabbling in a Farm: The Consequence of which is, that they become neither skilful Farmers, nor expert Workmen, but are generally Bunglers in both.

Even in our Linen Manufacture, which is the chief Support of the Kingdom, and has therefore deservedly engaged the Attention of the Publick, yet little



or no Care is taken by the Master Workmen, in this Respect : Nor do I recollect any Statute now in being, which makes such Neglects Penal, either in the Master, Journeyman, or Apprentice. The Effect of which, if not remedied in Time, will be the gradual Loss of that Knowledge in this Manufacture, which our Fathers had with great Pains acquired, and left with us.

7. There are also many Defects in our Schools, and in the Manner of preparing our Youth, either for mechanical Business, or the more genteel Professions.

The general Method of the Schools is to enforce every Thing by the Terror of the Rod. This suppresses every generous Sentiment, and habituates the Infant Mind, to Meanness and Servility, giving at the same Time, a Dislike and Antipathy to the Things which are instilled into them by such disagreeable Methods.

Whereas calm Expostulations, with proper Premiums, and honourable Distinctions, would work much more effectually upon every generous Breast. And almost every Boy is such, till he has been rendered callous by frequent Whippings, and has lost all Sense of Honour or Shame, by having often undergone that infamous Punishment, for Faults perhaps of a trifling Nature.

Servile Punishments should only be inflicted upon the most Profligate and Degenerate ; and only then, when they are deaf to the Remonstrances of Reason, and have lost all feeling of Honour and Generosity.

The Method of our Schools is certainly wrong in spending so much Time as they do, in teaching one or two dead Languages, and almost intirely neglecting our own, and other living Languages, of our neighbouring Nations, with whom we hold any Intercourse in Trade.

It



It is also a Defect in our Education, that Boys are not instructed there in several Branches of Knowledge, which are suitable to their Age, and might be of Service to them in the ensuing part of their Lives. Any of the Mechanic Arts might be easily taught at this Time ; Navigation, Gunnery, Fortification, Military Exercise, Perspective, Drawing, Ship-building, House-building, Surveying, Gaugeing, Levelling, Gardening, and Agriculture.

And as the practical Part of these Arts might be thus taught at our Schools ; so it should seem not beneath the Dignity of our University, to have the Principles of those Arts taught by particular Professors of their Society.

By this Means all Students, who are desirous of Instruction in any of these Branches, or are intended to serve their Country in any particular Employment or Calling, might have an easy Opportunity of acquiring, both, the Knowledge and Practice necessary to such Professions.

And as Trade seems to be the chief Business of some Nations, and the general Aim of all ; would it not be of singular Use to have a Publick Professor and Lecturer therein ; whose Business should be to explain the true Principles thereof, as well as to point out the Errors and mistaken Notions therein, which prevail in almost every Country, with respect to some Branch or other of it ?

And as the Linen Manufacture is in great Measure the Support of all our Trade, might it not be of Use to have a particular Professor thereof appointed in our University, who might explain and teach all the several Branches thereof, with all the mechanical Operations useful therein, in a scientific, as well as practical Manner. Under such a Professor, even, young Gentlemen of Fortune would be proud to learn all the Mysteries of a Trade so beneficial to the Kingdom : And from such a Master skilful Scholars might be detached all over the Country, in order to explain its Principles,

Principles, and improve its Practice ; which could not fail to propagate the Knowledge of the Art, as well as bring it to the greatest Nicety and Perfection.

There are some other Professorships much wanted in our University, which would be of great Service to the Youth of our Nobility and Gentry.

For these, not caring to imbark deeply in the Study of the learned Sciences, are often at a Loss how to employ their Time ; and would be glad to improve themselves in any of those polite Accomplishments, which adorn the Gentleman : For which Reason even Dancing, Fencing, Riding, ought to find a Place in an University : And the Study of Oratory and civil Polity should be principally inculcated upon all those, who hope one Day to have the Honour of representing their Country in the great Assembly of the Nation. Professors also of antient and modern History would be of great Use, who should explain the different Constitutions of the most famous antient States and Kingdoms of the World, with the Causes of their Growth and Declension ; as likewise the Origin and Growth of our own, and other modern Constitutions : All which, with proper Comparisons and Paralells drawn between them, would be the best Means of forming the wise Statesman and generous Patriot.

The *French* have set us a laudable Example in many of these Respects ; we are apt enough to imitate them in their Foibles and Follies ; let us not be ashamed to take a Pattern from them in Things that are wisely designed. Whatever Professions their Youth are intended for, there are Schools and Academies, where they are regularly bred, and fully instructed, in the Principles and Practice of those Arts, which are necessary to the respective Callings they are designed for. And as an Encouragement to their excelling in their different Ways, from these Academies all Employments in the State, the Army, and the Marine, are regularly filled up, and the Persons chosen out of them,



them, according as they have distinguished themselves in any eminent Degree.

And, in fact, to these Institutions it is owing, that their Armies and Navies are become so considerable; that their Merchants have worked themselves into the Trade of most Nations; and that their Statesmen make a Figure in the Courts of the greatest Princes. Whereas our Youth, for want of such Opportunities, generally enter into the Service of the State, the Army, or the Fleet, quite raw and untaught, without Knowledge, without Practice, absolutely devoid of the most fundamental and necessary Qualifications for a Statesman, a Soldier, or a Sailor.

8. Another Thing much wanted is a Review of our Laws, and the digesting them into one Body, in a natural, plain, and consistent Manner; so as to make the Knowledge of them easy and familiar to all those, who are obliged to pay Obedience to them.

The multiplicity and intricacy of our Laws has been long complained of as a Grievance; and must every Day become more and more so, from the Additions to them, and Alterations in them, which are thought necessary to be made every Session of Parliament.

The Tedioufness also and Expence of Law Suits (arising partly from this Intricacy of the Laws themselves, partly from the Errors and Abuses crept into the Practice of our several Courts of Justice, and partly from the dilatory Methods and Forms, by which Business is carried on in each of them) is another Grievance, which has been very sensibly felt by many among us.

The one lays a Foundation for new Debates and Law Suits every Day; and the other subjects the most honest and peaceable Man to a monstrous Expence in Defence of any of his Rights, which a litigious Neighbour may think proper to contest with him.

Notwithstanding we may justly boast of having Laws framed, for the most part, by our own Representatives;

sentatives ; notwithstanding our Lives, Liberties and Properties are secured to us by those Laws ; notwithstanding the Courts of Justice are open to every Man, so that Redress may be had, in a legal Manner, by the meanest or poorest Person in the Land, against the greatest and most powerful : Notwithstanding this great Blessing of Freedom, Laws, and Courts of Justice ; yet, I say, it cannot be deny'd, that these very legal Means and Methods of Redress are become so dilatory and expensive, that many have been heard to say, it had been better for them to have lost their Cause in the Beginning, than to have gained it at the End of a tedious Suit.

As the World goes, it is a Thing hardly to be expected, that our Lawyers, Attornies, Sollicitors, and other Retainers to our Courts, should lay their Heads together, and join in their Endeavours to reduce our Laws into a short and plain System ; or contrive a Method of expediting Suits, by correcting Abuses, and cutting off unnecessary Forms : Because these are the very Means, by which that Society have grown to their present State of Opulence, Power, and Grandeur ; and indeed I fear, they are so well secured in Intrenchments of Forms, Precedents, and Usages of long standing, that it will require a Spirit and Capacity, equal to that of his *Prussian* Majesty, to pull them out of these strong Holds.

But tho' little Assistance is to be expected from the selfish Part of that Body, yet I can't but think, that there will be some always found among the Gentlemen of the Law, who are adorned with so much Virtue and Generosity, as to prefer the publick Good to the private Gains of their Society ; and on that Account will help forward so useful an Undertaking. And as several of them have the Honour to sit in the House of Commons, and may be greatly aiding and assisting thereto ; surely they, together with the other Members of the Legislature, may be depended on for  
having



having Courage equal to this arduous Attempt, and Wisdom sufficient to conduct it.

It would indeed be Presumption in any private Lawyer, to hope to work out of his single Brain any Scheme, by which so glorious an Undertaking could be brought to Perfection; but any one of them may modestly offer Hints, which may be useful to that End. And if you think proper to signify that such Hints would be agreeable to you, and meet with a suitable Encouragement, there is no Doubt to be made, but several thinking Men among them might be induced to publish their Sentiments on that Head before your next Session. And from the several different Hints thus furnished by different Persons, it would be no very difficult Matter to select the most feasible and expedient, and to form them into one regular and consistent Plan.

A like Encouragement to any ingenious Man to publish his Thoughts on this Subject, or any other, which may be of Service to the Community, could not fail to produce many useful Hints, which now lie buried in the Breasts of the Contemplative.

We find the *French* in their Academies every Year propose Prizes for Discourses of this Nature: These keep up a Spirit and Emulation among Men of Learning and Genius, and occasion their several Talents to be exerted to the utmost Pitch: Whereas with us, for want of such a Spur, the brightest Parts too often sink into Indolence and Sloth.

9. Another Thing of great Service to this Kingdom, would be the establishing of a Paper Currency upon good and undoubted Credit.

For tho' we should suppose the Trade of *Ireland* to increase beyond our warmest Hopes; and tho' our Exports should by this Means exceed our Imports in a much greater Degree than ever they have yet done; and so bring in a Balance of Treasure in our Favour; yet our Remittances to *England*, for Account of our Absentees, will for ever be a constant  
Drain

Drain upon us, every Year carrying off a large Part of our current Cash, as fast as we can import it.

The unavoidable Consequence of which is, that great Part of our inland Commerce must always be carried on by Means of Bills of Exchange, or Promissory Notes of Merchants and Bankers.

That our current Cash is quite insufficient to circulate our Business : without the Aid of a Paper Currency, is evident in Fact from the easy Credit we are wont to give to any Body who will set up a Bank ; notwithstanding we have suffered so much from the Frauds or Insolvencies of Bankers, and the great Difficulties that are found in adjusting their Accounts after their Deaths.

If then a Paper Currency be absolutely necessary to carry on the greatest Part of the Business of the Kingdom ; and if private Merchants and Bankers have often failed ; shut up their Shops in their Life-time ; or, by their Deaths, caused a Stagnation in our Business ; thrown the whole Kingdom into Confusion ; and ruined many honest and fair Traders : Can any Thing be more evident, than the Usefulness of a national Bank, to be erected in *Dublin*, with correspondent Chambers of Account, in the most convenient Part of the other three Provinces ?

By a national Bank is meant, one secured by the Nation, on the Faith and Credit of the Legislature ; in which no private Persons or Companies are to have any Shares ; but the whole Profits thereof to redound to the Uses of the Publick ; and the Losses to be made good by the Publick out of some publick Fund. The Notes of such Bank to be a legal Tender of Payment for any Tax or Duty to the Government, any Bill of Exchange, Note or Debt whatsoever, and the Lodgments in it to be secured by Parliament.

Private Merchants and Bankers may fail, or by their Deaths put a Stop to Trade ; Companies may also fail ; or, tho' they should not fail, yet are subject to Inconveniencies from the jobbing of Stocks and Shares : but  
a national



a national Bank is subject to no such Inconveniencies ; nor can it ever fail, unless we suppose the whole Constitution overturned, the Country laid waste, and the Kingdom depopulated.

And if it should be our Misfortune, to be at any Time reduced to this calamitous State, it would then be of little Importance to any private Man, in whose Hands his Cash or Goods, were deposited ; for in such a general Confusion (as is here supposed) every Person would unavoidably suffer the Loss of every Thing. But, if it should ever be our Happiness to revive from such a Desolation, and to have our Laws and Constitution restored to us ; may we not then depend on the Faith and Honour of the Legislature, that every private Man's Right shall be restored to him, and his Property secured, in such Manner and Proportion, as shall be consistent with Justice and the publick Welfare. So that even in the Case supposed, which is the most desperate and unfavourable we can well imagine, we might safely rely on the Security of a national Bank.

As to the Management of such a Bank, with the Choice of Directors, Cashiers and Clerks ; and the Checks to be contrived, and Securities to be required of each ; it is to be hoped, that the Wisdom of the Nation will be able to take as effectual Care of these Points, and to guard against Abuses, as any private Bankers, or Companies can do.

But, whether all these Things be properly concerted in the Beginning, or not, it can be of no Consequence to any private Person, who has a Demand on the Bank : For the Bank must answer their Notes. And if it should happen, that any of the Managers, Cashiers or Clerks, should at any Time be guilty of a Fraud, or other Male-practice ; the Bank must have the trouble of suing, and will always have its Remedy against the respective Securities of any of its Officers or Servants : And as any Frauds or Errors may be discovered in the Course of Practice, which could not  
have

have been readily foreseen, it will be easie, by proper Care to prevent the like for the future.

10. The many Famines we have had in this Country, and the great Hardship and Misery, which our Labourers, Manufacturers, and lower Ranks of People suffer, in every scarce or dear Year, should put us upon devising some effectual Means, for keeping the Price of Bread within some reasonable Limits; so as, that it should never fall so low, as to discourage the Farmer; nor rise so high, as to oppress the Manufacturer.

To this Purpose, it has been thought by some Gentlemen, that a large Bounty on the Exportation of our Corn, when under a certain Rate, would be the most effectual Expedient, and the most certain Encouragement to the Farmer; as by this Means its Price would seldom fall too low: And, at the same Time, an high Penalty on the Occupiers of Land, who should neglect to plough a certain proportion of their Farms yearly, was thought to be the most likely Means of securing us such Plenty of Bread, as that its Price should never rise too high. These have been both tried for some Years, but without producing the Ends desired; for it is notorious, that we have some Years a Glut of Corn, and then it bears no Price; in others a great Scarcity, and then its Price is exorbitant, and our People famished.

Nothing then but Granaries and Store-houses, under the Direction of the Publick, can keep its Price within reasonable Bounds. If such were erected in the Centre of each County, and filled in cheap Years (that is, whenever the Price of Grain should fall below a certain Standard) and not opened, but in dear Years, (that is, when the Price should rise beyond a certain Rate to be likewise fixed) and then only to be retailed weekly in small Quantities, and at a moderate Rate, to the Inhabitants of such County: Such Magazines, under such Regulations, would always prevent the Evils and Miseries of Famine, supply our  
People



People with Bread at a middling Price, and give a constant and steady Encouragement to the Farmer to keep his Plough always going.

A Bounty on Exportation is certainly an Encouragement to the Farmer, as it always keeps up the Price of Grain; but then it is attended with evil Consequences to our own People, which I fear are seldom sufficiently considered: I allow also, that Restraints and Penalties in some few Instances may do good; but, generally speaking, the more strict and severe they are, the more likely they are to defeat their own Execution: Whereas Premiums are better fitted to work on the Tempers of Mankind, and never fail to raise such a Spirit and Emulation, as are productive of new Inventions and Improvements, in any Branch of Business, to which such Premiums are applied.

If then we are desirous to encourage Tillage effectually, let certain Quantities of the best Kinds of Wheat, Barley, Oats, and Grass-seeds, be annually imported, and distributed *gratis*, among the most industrious and skilful of our Farmers, upon their giving Security to sow the same in a proper Manner: Let also the best and most approved Kind of Ploughs, Harrows, Rollers, Carts, Carrs, Spades, Hoes, and other useful Tools and Instruments, be made and distributed to the most expert Farmers, on their engaging to use the same, and to lend them out as Patterns to have others made by: And, after a few Years, (as the Knowledge and Skill in Husbandry shall increase among our People) let them then be distributed more generally, thro' every Part of the Kingdom.

Let large Premiums be also given to such (whether they be private Men or Companies) as will engage in any useful Works, attended with great Expence; such as the draining Loughs and Bogs; reclaiming Heaths or Mountains; opening Veins of Coals, Mines, or Minerals; making Rivers navigable; repairing of old High-ways, or laying out of new ones in more

convenient Places : Let Persons also, who are well skill-  
 ed in all the Parts of Husbandry, be brought over  
 and supported at the publick Expence, in order to in-  
 struct our People, in the easiest, cheapest, and best  
 Methods of ploughing, sowing, planting, ditching,  
 draining, manuring, and keeping their Lands in con-  
 stant Heart, whether it be by fallowing, burning, sow-  
 ing Grass-seeds, or laying on of Soil and Manures :  
 Let some of these Persons be settled on Farms, in dif-  
 ferent Parts of the Kingdom ; let them be obliged to  
 instruct a certain Number of Apprentices, in a regular  
 Manner, both in the Theory and Practice of their  
 Art ; let them be always ready to teach any Persons,  
 in their Neighbourhood, who shall repair to them for  
 that End ; shewing and convincing them, by ocular  
 Demonstration, of the great Utility of their new Me-  
 thods of Husbandry, in Comparison of the old ones,  
 which are in Use among us : Let others of equal Skill  
 travel thro' certain Districts of the Country, inspect  
 into the Methods of Husbandry practised in each  
 Place, and having proper Tools and Tackle along with  
 them, and previous Notice being given of the Time and  
 Place, let the several Instruments be then exposed to  
 the View of all the Persons there assembled ; let the  
 Methods of using them be shewn and explained, both  
 by Precept and Example, till some of the most expert  
 among our People shall be able to practise the Rules  
 prescribed, and in some Measure capable even to teach  
 others : Let these Itinerants, in their next Circuits,  
 inquire into the Progress which each Farmer has  
 made, since his last Visit ; observe his Readiness and  
 Skill in carrying on the several Branches, wherein he  
 had before instructed him, and let each of them be  
 reported according to his Industry and Improvements  
 in the new Methods, and always find a suitable In-  
 couragement from the Publick by Premiums of such  
 a Kind as are calculated to give Honour, as well as Profit.

Such Methods of Instruction, accompanied with such  
 Encouragements, could not fail in a few Years to make  
 Tillage



Tillage flourish among us. It was by Methods similar to these, that our Linen Manufacture has been brought to its present thriving Condition : It is not very many Years, since we were under a Necessity of importing, from Abroad, great Part of the Linens we used for our own Consumption, we are now able to supply ourselves, at a much cheaper Rate, and also to export large Quantities for a foreign Market.

To a Method of this Kind are owing the few Improvements, that are now carried on among us, both in Tillage and Manufactures : The voluntary Contributions of the *Dublin Society*, and other Societies lately formed in some of our Counties, on a like Plan, ought always to be mentioned with just Praise by every Man, who has the Interest of his Country at Heart : But as the Power and Funds of such voluntary Societies, are of a limited Nature and depend chiefly on private and temporary Subscriptions, the Effects which follow from them, cannot be of a large or extensive Kind, or in any Measure adequate to the Wants of the whole Kingdom : Whereas, if You, Gentlemen of the Legislature, who are at all Times invested with unlimited Powers, and ample Funds, would bend Your Strength this Way, suitable Effects might then be expected to follow from it; and in a few Years the whole Face of the Country be altered.

But still there will be a great Difference in the national Effects, arising from Premiums bestowed (in the Manner before described) upon our Farmers and Manufacturers, and such as are derived from Bounties given to the Merchant on Exportation. This it will be necessary to explain a little, because it seems not to have been thoroughly considered by those Gentlemen, who have upon several Occasions advised the giving of these latter Kind of Bounties. By the former Kind, our Farmers will acquire so much Skill and Knowledge in the Management and Improvement of their Farms, as will enable them to produce, from every Acre of their Land, a greater Quantity of Corn and Hay, and

of a better Kind than they now do, by the common Methods of Husbandry in use among us ; by which Means they may afford to sell every Barrel of Corn, and Load of Hay, vastly below the Prices they now get ; and yet, upon the Whole, from the greater Quantity, and greater Goodness of their Crops, they will be greater Gainers than at present. The Effect of which will be, that every Labourer, Tradesman, Gentleman, or other Person, who depends on the Market for Corn or Hay, may be supplied at a lower Rate than now.

The same Reasoning will hold with respect to Beef, Butter, Cheese, Hops, &c. all which the Farmers will be able to furnish at a lower Rate, by their Improvements in Tillage. Consequently all Sorts of Victuals being cheaper, every Labourer and Manufacturer can afford to work cheaper, that is, at less Wages by the Day, and a lower Rate by the Piece.

And the Materials of our Cloathing, such as Leather, Wool, Hemp, or Flax, being also raised cheaper by the Farmer, must lower the Price of them to the Manufacturer, and so enable him to sell his Manufactures, when finished, at a cheaper Rate.

In like Manner, Premiums properly bestowed, and the same Methods taken for the Instruction of our several different Manufacturers, will increase their Skill to such a Degree, that they will be able to work up a greater Quantity of their Manufactures in less Time, and in a better Manner, than now they do ; by which they can afford to sell each Piece of their manufactured Goods cheaper, and yet upon the whole make a greater Gain, at the Year's End, than they have hitherto done.

These Kind of Premiums then, properly applied, cannot fail to increase both our Industry and Skill, in the Culture and Improvement of our Lands, as well as in the several Manufactures which may be any ways useful or wanting among us. And the Effect of these Improvements upon ourselves must be, that all  
Kind



Kind of Food and Cloathing, and every Manufacture necessary or convenient for Life, will be in greater Plenty among us, and may be purchased at a lower Rate, and yet every Man, in his several Way, make a greater Profit by his Labour, at the Year's End, than now he can.

And the Merchant Exporter being thus enabled to lay in his Cargo (whether of Provisions or Manufactures) at a lower Rate, cannot fail to meet with a readier Market, and quicker Sales abroad; by which he will be enabled to make quicker Returns, bringing back the Value of his Cargo in ready Money, or such Materials for Manufacture as are wanted at home, or may be prudently stored up for a foreign Market; and thus, by making more Voyages, and each of them with more Profit, will in the Year, bring home a larger Balance of Trade in our Favour.

But now, as to that other Kind of Premium or Bounty which may be paid to the Merchant on Exportation, it will have a contrary Effect both at home and abroad.

If a Bounty be given on the Exportation of Corn, Beef, Butter, Leather, Flax, Wool, or any thing else which is necessary for our own Food or Cloathing, it never fails to raise and keep up the Price of those Commodities at home. This is allowed by every body to be the Effect of it; and this is the Reason why some Gentlemen are so fond of it; for it is certain, that the Merchant (by the Help of this Bounty) can afford to give an higher Price for those Commodities, than he could do if there were no such Bounty allowed him: For if he can sell abroad at such a Rate, as (together with the Bounty) will pay him for the Cargo, Freight, Insurance, and a reasonable Profit on the Voyage, that is all he considers as a Merchant.

Now the same Price which the Merchant pays, every Man else in the Kingdom must also pay, for the Consumption of himself and his Family; and the Labourer and Manufacturer, thus paying an advanced Price

for Food and Cloathing, must raise their Wages, or put an higher Rate on the Goods they manufacture; this will make all those Goods dearer for our own Consumption at home, and dearer to the Merchant who is to export them: He will then be underfold by the Merchants of other Nations, whose Manufacturers are cheaper fed and cloathed; his Goods will lie longer on hand, be sold at longer Credit, or under prime Cost: When he returns, he will have but little ready Money to lay out among us, having himself sold at long Trust; or, he can't take as large Quantities as before, having a great Part of his last Cargo still unsold, and in the Hands of Factors; or, he can't give as high Prices as before, being underfold by the Merchants of other Nations; and perhaps of that very Nation which is cheaper fed and cloathed by Means of our Bounties: Our Manufacturers then must sit idle, and either starve at home for want of Employment, or leave the Kingdom in quest of Work; the Materials of our Manufactures will then lie on the Hands of the Farmer, or Grower, as useless Lumber; the Farmer will then turn his Lands to Grazing, or any other Use which may yield him a better Return; the Materials of our Manufactures will then, in a few Years, grow scarce and dear; Labour also will grow dearer, Food and Cloathing dearer, and, in the End, every one of our Manufactures will grow dearer and dearer at home; whilst at the same Time our Merchants are disabled from selling them abroad, even if they could be purchased here at their former cheap Prices,

These are the Home Effects of giving Bounties for the Exportation of the Necessaries of Life, or any of the Materials of our Manufactures.

Let us now see what Effects they produce in that Nation where they are vended, by the Help of our Bounties.

If the Bounty given be but barely sufficient to pay the Merchant for Freight, Insurance, and a reasonable Profit,



Profit, he can then afford to sell abroad at the very same Rate he bought at home; if the Bounty be more than sufficient for these Purposes, he can then sell abroad at a lower Rate than he laid them in at home.

Our Provisions then, by Means of this Bounty, become as cheap, or cheaper to Foreigners, than they are to our own People; they have then as much, or more Benefit, from our improved Tillage than we have ourselves; their Manufacturers are by this Means fed cheaper than our own; they can therefore work cheaper in all the Manufactures they carry on, their Goods come cheaper to their home Market, and of Consequence their Merchants can undersel ours, in all foreign Ports where they meet. These are the Effects of Bounties given for exporting any of the Necessaries of Life; the Price of them is by this Means always raised upon our own People, and lowered upon Foreigners; and the natural unavoidable Consequence of that is, that our Commodities of every Kind being thus wrought up dearer, and those of Foreigners cheaper, their Merchants can afford to undersel ours, and by that Means will by Degrees carry off all Trade from us.

A like Effect will follow, if we suppose a Bounty given on the Exportation of our Flax or Flax-seed, Hemp or Hemp-seed, Wool, raw Hides, or any Thing which may be called the Materials of any Manufactures, which may be useful for our home Consumption, or convenient for any foreign Market; for by such Bounties the Price of those Materials will be raised upon our own Manufacturers at home, and lowered upon those of the Country to which we export them; which in the End will give that Country an Advantage in Trade against us, and gradually lessen ours.

Something of the same Kind will follow (though in a less hurtful Degree) if we suppose a Bounty to be given on the Exportation of any of our Manufactures, when only half wrought up; for that will enable other

Nations to finish them cheaper than we can ourselves.

And in like Manner (though in a Degree still less prejudicial) if we suppose a Bounty to be given for exporting our Manufactures, when wrought up and finished in the most complete Manner: For even in this last Case, which is the least hurtful to us, yet the Effect would be, that those finish'd Manufactures would sell so much dearer at home, and cheaper abroad, and by that Means the Country where they are vended will enjoy a great Share of the Benefits of our cheaper Labour, or superior Skill.

Upon the whole then it may be concluded universally, that Bounties given for exporting any of the Growths or Manufactures of a Country, will in the end destroy the Trade of that Country.

The late Sir *Matthew Decker*, in his short but incomparable Treatise upon Trade, assigns the Bounties on the Exportation of Corn, which had been long given in *England*, as one of the Causes which had contributed to the Decline of the Woollen Manufacture in that Kingdom.

I might produce the Authority of some other Writers, in Support of the Opinion here advanced; but whoever has read Sir *Matthew Decker* with any Degree of Attention, will allow his Authority to be of more Weight than that of a thousand common Writers.

But now, on the other Hand, all those Bounties, Rewards, and Premiums given to the People, the Farmers, and Manufacturers, either to teach, encourage, or assist them in carrying on any Branch of Tillage, any Improvement of their Lands, any new Manufactures that are wanted, or any Improvements in the old; all these, I say, cannot fail to be of infinite Service, by increasing the Quantity, Goodness, and Cheapness of all our Provisions and Manufactures, and at the same time will raise the Value of all our  
Lands



Lands to a Degree which is scarce conceivable at present.

Some may think that our Lands are already raised too high; perhaps they are, in proportion to our Trade; but if the Improvements here mentioned were effectually carried on, the Farmer might certainly then give double the Rent he now pays, and yet, upon the Whole, make a greater Profit out of every Acre of his Land than now he does.

11. The last Thing I shall mention as wanting Improvement, is our Establishment for teaching and propagating Religion and Virtue.

It must be allowed, in general, that our Constitution is well contrived for this Purpose; secured also by good Laws, and supported by good Endowments.

In the first Place, we have a Provision made for an *English* School in every Parish, and a *Latin* School in every Diocese, besides some other Schools well endowed in particular Parts of the Kingdom.

Here it was intended, that the Minds of Children should be early formed to Religion and Virtue, to Honour and Generosity, to a Love of their Country, and a Reverence for God; that so these good Impressions might be fixed in the young and tender Mind, before Vice had got Possession; by which Means they would be enabled to keep their Ground, and be of great Service in all future Trials and Temptations.

Whether such due Care be taken to instil the Principles of Morality and Religion into the Minds of our Youth, in any of our publick Schools, or even in the University, I leave it to them to answer who have the Care and Direction of such Foundations.

But it is too notorious to be denied, that most of the Time at Schools is taken up merely in learning one or two dead languages, by Methods the most tedious and burdensome that can be well imagined; and all the while that most useful Knowledge, which ought to be the End of all our Skill in Languages, is in great measure neglected: Nay, indeed, I fear it will be found,

found, that some of our Schoolmasters have little Relish for the sublime Sentiments of the Heathen Moralists or Christian Writers; nor are they qualified for teaching any thing more, than the bare grammatical Construction of a few classical Authors.

In the next Place it must be allowed, that our Constitution is well contrived for keeping up a Sense of Virtue and Religion among our People. The whole Kingdom was antiently divided into Parishes, and each Parish originally endowed with a Glebe and Manse-House, for the Accommodation and Residence, and Tythes, for the Support of a sober, discreet, and learned Minister, who by his publick Preaching and Catechising, by his Instructions and Exhortations in private, and by the Example of a regular Conversation and Behaviour, might gently lead his Hearers into the Knowledge of Christianity and the Practice of it's Precepts.

But if, through the Confusion of the Times, this wise Endowment hath been so far defeated, as that in many Parishes there is neither Glebe nor Manse-House to be found, nor Tythes left for the Support of a Minister: In this Case, would it not be wise in the Legislature to provide (at the public Expence) a convenient Glebe and House in every such Parish, with such a Portion of Tythes, or other Maintenance for a Minister, as should be suitable to the Expence of his Education, and the Years of Study requisite to qualify him for that Office?

By the same Constitution, an Estate and Mansion-House was provided in each Diocese, for a Bishop, to preside over his Clergy, oversee the several Parishes within his Diocese, and inspect into the Conduct of both Ministers and People therein. And in like manner a Provision was made for an Archbishop in each Province, to superintend and take Care of the Morals and religious Conduct of Bishops, Ministers, and People.

These



These are subordinate one to the other, but still each of them is armed with a Power of punishing the Faulty or Negligent, as well as Means of rewarding the Deserving and Diligent.

Whether these several Trusts have been duly discharged by our Archbishops, Bishops, and Ministers, I leave it to themselves to consider: and shall here only say, that if any of my Lords the Bishops have been too indulgent to the Faults of some of their Clergy, and too negligent of the Merits of others, it is in their Power to alter such Conduct whenever they please; and, by so doing, to remove one of the strongest Objections which has at any time been made against Episcopacy: If any Parish Ministers have deserted their Cures, or neglected their sacred Functions, it is in their Power, by a Change of Behaviour, to heal the Wounds given to Religion, and wipe off the Scandals they had thrown upon our Church: And, if any of our People have shewn a Readiness to invade the Rights of the Church, and divest the Establishment of its ancient Support, it is in their Power also, by an Alteration of their Conduct, to restore that Peace and Good-will which they had before destroyed.

But if neither People, nor Ministers, nor Bishops can be persuaded to return to their respective Duties, will it not then be incumbent on the Gentlemen of the Legislature to exert their Authority, and either spirit them up to their Duty by suitable Rewards, or compel them to it by condign Punishments?

In the Third Place, it will be allowed, I believe, that our Liturgy, thirty nine Articles of Religion, and Acts of Uniformity, were all intended for avoiding of Diversity of Opinions, and for establishing of Consent touching true Religion.

Have they in Fact answered that End? or rather do not Divisions and Separations increase among us, with all their mischievous Consequences? are not Dissenters,

ters, of various Denominations, so multiplied, and strengthened in Interest, that in many Places, they look upon themselves as more than a Match for Churchmen, and are every Day coping and contending with them? All which must breed Jealousies, Animosities and Broils, destructive to each of them, and prejudicial to the Protestant Interest in general.

This Part of our Constitution therefore, in the Opinion of many, seems to require a Review, and call for some Amendment.

It has been advanced, as a thing morally impossible, to bring all Men to one Way of Thinking, with respect to so many different Doctrines and Tenets, as are contained in our Liturgy, and Articles of Religion; and many of them also being in Points wholly speculative, and abstruse in their Nature.

It has been alledged, that such abstruse, speculative, disputable Doctrines, might more prudently be left out of a general Liturgy, so as to find no Place in a Form of Prayer composed for the constant and ordinary Use of common People, which should rather consist of unfeigned Confessions of our Sins, earnest Supplications for Pardon, Holy Resolutions of Amendment, and ardent Petitions of Grace and Strength to fulfil the same, with hearty Acknowledgments for publick and private Blessings, both Temporal and Spiritual, and an humble Dependance on Providence for a Continuance of his Favour and Protection against every Evil.

It has been argued, that the introducing into our Forms of Prayer, any Points of Controversy, or disputed Doctrines, has a Tendency to sour the Mind, and lead us into uncharitable Reflections upon those who are known to be of a different Opinion: which ought especially to be avoided, when we publicly meet in one Place, to offer up our solemn Addresses to that God, who is the common Creator, Redeemer, and Father of us all; before whom all Bickerings and Distinctions should cease, and every Expression  
be



be avoided, which might raise such Emotions in our Breasts.

If therefore our Liturgy was reformed, by leaving out of it such disputable Doctrines, all sincere Protestants (tho' of different Persuasions and Opinions, as to many Points controverted among us) might safely join in one and the same common Form of Worship, without wounding their Consciences. But still, unless something was also done to open a Way for the Admission of their Ministers into our Church, it is much to be feared, that many of their People would be unwilling to desert their old Pastors, and for this Reason (were there no other) might still obstinately persist in their Separation. In this View, would it not be adviseable, that some Things should be also omitted, which are now contained in the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion, and the Terms of ministerial Communion so far enlarged ?

Where would be the Harm, if Subscription were required to none of the Articles, but such as are absolutely necessary to Salvation ? as to such speculative Doctrines (the explicit Profession of which is neither required in the Scriptures as a Term of our Acceptance, nor recommended as useful in Practice) where would be the Inconvenience, if our Church was to make no Definitions of them, nor our Ministers any Declarations about them, or Subscriptions to them ?

And, as to those sublime Distinctions, which relate to the Divine Nature and Essence, and never can be comprehended farther than they are plainly revealed in the Scriptures, where would be the harm, if our Church would be content to leave them in the same Latitude and generality of Expression, in which they are found in the Scriptures ; without pretending to explain them more minutely, or define them more precisely, than the Scriptures themselves have done ?

The Scriptures (for Instance) are allowed to be general and indeterminate, with respect to the metaphysical

physical Nature of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ; but with respect to the Divine Attributes of these three Persons, and their several Offices in the Work of our Redemption, they are plain and explicit enough.

Where then is the Wisdom of our taking upon us to explain these Points farther than God himself hath explained them ? or where is the Policy in our rejecting all those from the Ministry in our Church, who scruple to subscribe to any Explications of those Points, but such as are given by our Saviour and his Apostles in the Scriptures themselves ?

These are the great Objections made by the Dissenters against ministerial Communion in our Church : And till they are so far removed, as to open a Way for the most moderate among their Ministers to be admitted into our Church ; there will be little hopes of reconciling their People to us, tho' we should make the Terms of Lay-Communion ever so easy or agreeable to them. But if both our Liturgy and Articles were reformed according to some such comprehensive Plan, as was projected by some eminent Divines soon after the Revolution, this would remove the Foundation for many Objections against our Church, and of Course, bring over all reasonable and moderate Men to our Communion ; and leave all others without Excuse.

And as to such as might still continue obstinate in their Separation, their Numbers would be so far diminished, as to be incapable of disturbing the Government.

Let such Men however (even after this Test of their Obstinacy) enjoy a free Toleration, and Liberty of worshipping God in a Way agreeable to their Consciences, without being molested or disturb'd by us : But never let them have any hopes of being admitted any more, into Places of Trust or Profit ; nor have a Vote in Vestries, Corporations, or the Election of Members of Parliament. For, as long as such Men have any Prospect



Prospect of being admitted into Places of Trust or Profit, or have a Vote in the Election of such; so long they will be still struggling for more and more Power; nor ever be at rest, till they have pulled down the Church, and raised themselves upon its Ruins: And I leave it to the Wisdom of the Nation to consider, whether it be consistent with Prudence, to leave an Open, or give Incouragement, to perpetual Divisions and Contests in the Kingdom.

These, Gentlemen, are my Sentiments on this Head; I have before propos'd what I thought necessary, with respect to Tillage, Manufactures, &c. But as right Notions of God and Religion, and the conscientious Discharge of our moral and social Obligations, are more essential to the Well-being of any State, than any other Particulars whatsoever; I should therefore think it not beneath your Wisdom, to take into your Consideration, the declining State of Religion and Morality among us, and to devise some Means for its Revival and Improvement.

I know some Persons are of Opinion, that the Business of the State is only to regulate our outward Actions, and not to trouble itself with our Principles of Religion: That true Religion is seated in the Heart, of which the State can form no Judgment; and should therefore leave that to be rewarded or punished in another World, by that God, who is a Discerner of the Thoughts, and can distinguish the Sincere from the Hypocrite.

But still I say, that as right Notions of God and Religion, his infinite Power and Goodness displayed in his Works of Creation and Providence, his Hatred of Sin and Wickedness, and yet his Compassion to Sinners manifested in the Scheme of our Redemption, the Assurance of Life and Immortality given to those who patiently continue in Well-doing, and that eternal Misery which is threatned to the Disobedient and Impenitent; as all these Notions most effectually tend to make us good Men and good Subjects, industrious  
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in our Callings, frugal in our Expences, temperate in our Pleasures, honest in our Dealings, faithful in our Trusts, and helpful to our Neighbours; and as the Principles of the Christian Religion, early instilled into us, constantly inculcated on us, and habitually rivetted in our Hearts, cannot fail to make us such: Surely in this Light they become of political Consideration, and ought to be the chief Care and Concern of every Society.

As far indeed as Religious Opinions are merely speculative, and have no Influence on our Practice, so far, I allow, it may be prudent in any State, not to meddle with, or concern itself in them: But as far as they have an Influence on our Morals, so far surely it will be wise in the Legislature, to do every thing in their Power, to propagate and imprint such Principles, and preserve them at all Times fresh and lively, upon the Minds and Consciences of the People.

And this may be done in the same Manner as any Improvements can be carried on in any of our Manufactures; and that is, by making proper Regulations in the Affair; by taking care, that these Regulations be well observed, and effectually executed; by giving Premiums, Honours, and other Encouragements, to such as comply with the Rules laid down; and suitable Punishments, with Contempt and Infamy, upon the wilful and obstinate Transgressors.

These Things will make School-masters diligent in instructing the Youth committed to their Care; these Things will make Ministers active and vigorous in the Discharge of their parochial Duties, earnest in their private Exhortations, and vehement in their publick Preachings.

Human Nature is much alike in the whole Species; every Man is influenced in some Degree by the same Passions; prompted to Action by Honour, and Reward, and deterred by the fear of Disgrace and Punishment.

Make



Make then the Employment of School-masters and Ministers, generally honourable, as well as profitable ; and you will soon have a Number of ingenious Men, well qualified, to engage in that Business, and ready to offer themselves for that Service.

Let the Honours and Emoluments thereof be regularly given, only to such as have been tried for some Years, and approved themselves well in their Office ; and you will have every one of them endeavouring to excel the others in every Branch of their Duty.

Let Suspension, Degradation and Infamy, be the Portion of every idle and disorderly Clergyman ; and very few of that Character will invade that Holy Function ; or continue so long in it, as to be a Scandal to it.

Thus, Gentlemen, have I ventured to lay before you such Hints, as may be of Use in the Improvement of our Kingdom : They are not new ; nor of my Invention ; I claim no Merit on that Account. I know there are already, different Societies formed, for the carrying on several of them : Such are the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture, Inland Navigation, Turnpike Roads, Charter Schools, and First Fruits ; also the Cambrick Company, *Dublin* Society, and other voluntary Societies, in different Parts of the Country.

Some of these have taken great Pains, and have done a great deal of Good, and would have done more, had their Funds been equal to their Desires of serving the Publick : Others have fallen into some Errors and Mistakes ; which, being now visible to themselves, may therefore be easily set right, and avoided for the Future, and I fear, there are some Abuses crept into others ; which will require your Authority to Remedy.

But supposing all former Mistakes could be rectified, and all Abuses removed ; yet most of these Societies are so limited in their Funds, and circumscribed in their Powers (either by the Legislature, from a Jealousy

lousy of trusting too much Power in private Hands ; or by their Charters from his Majesty ; or by their own By-Laws) that great Part of the Good, they might otherwise do, is by these Means defeated, and cannot be put in Execution : And there is also a great Part of the Funds, allotted for these Purposes, necessarily consumed in the Salaries of Officers, and Wages of Servants, belonging to so many different Boards.

Now these Things being all considered, it is submitted to the Judgment of these Societies themselves, as well as to you, Gentlemen, who compose the great Assembly of the Nation, whether it might not be expedient, either to dissolve these particular Societies entirely, and to erect one general Society in their Room, by the Name of the NATIONAL SOCIETY ; or else, these particular Societies continuing, to constitute one general Society for the whole Kingdom, to which all particular Societies now in being, or hereafter to be instituted, shall be subordinate.

This NATIONAL SOCIETY to take under its Protection and Encouragement every Part of the Kingdom ; and every Kind of Improvement, that any Part of it is most capable of ; to be as well guarded from all partial Proceedings, Errors, Inconveniencies, and Abuses, as human Wisdom can devise : To be endowed with a Fund, sufficient to answer so extensive a Purpose : To be invested with a Power, adequate to so beneficial an End : In its Operations to be subject to no Controul, or Impediment, from the selfish Views of private Proprietors ; nor accountable for its Orders, or Actions, to any inferior Tribunal, Court, or Jurisdiction, save only to the supreme Court of the Nation, in Parliament assembled.

All Kinds of useful Undertakings being thus carried on under the Direction and Encouragement of one such Society, would mutually assist, and become subservient to one another ; and from their united Strength, the utmost Improvement of ourselves, and our Country, might be expected to arise.

It



It is not possible, in the Nature of Things, that any Scheme, which is to be executed by a Number of Agents, of different Wills, Interests, and Abilities, should admit of a certain and mathematical Calculation in its Effects: All, that can be expected in such Cases, is, that they be rational and probable.

Whether what is here proposed be such, is now submitted to You, and the Publick. I fear indeed, that the Scheme may have many Defects in itself; as well as be subject to some Mistakes in the Execution.

I have endeavoured to guard against such, as occurred to me; and here commit it to the Publick, not as a perfect Model, or Plan; but as an Essay, in order to be further examined and tried; to have its Errors corrected, its Faults amended, and its Omissions supplied, so as to make it answer the Purpose intended, which is in Truth nothing else, but the GENERAL AND EFFECTUAL IMPROVEMENT OF IRELAND.

*The SCHEME, or PLAN, of a National Society.*

LET a new Society be incorporated (by Act of Parliament) by the Name of the *National Society*, for the general Improvement of *Ireland*.

Let this Society consist of the following Members.

Eight Trustees for the Crown; to be nominated by the Crown, out of the Officers and Servants of the Crown.

Six Trustees for each County; each of them to be generally resident in the County for which they are chosen; and to have a real Estate in the Kingdom, not less than one thousand Pounds a Year; or a Personal Estate, not less than ten thousand Pounds.

Two of these to be chosen by the House of Lords, and four of them by the House of Commons; being 192 for all the Counties.

And sixteen Trustees for Religion; that is, four for each Province, to be chosen by the Clergy of each

Province; two of them from among the Bishops, and two from among the Clergy of the respective Provinces.

All such Elections, at first, and hereafter, to be made by the Ballot.

Let this Society have a Common Seal, with Clerks and other necessary Servants, at moderate Salaries. A Treasurer will not be necessary, as their Fund may be paid into the publick Treasury, till a national Bank shall be erected; and afterwards into such Bank.

Let all the Meetings of this Society be regularly held, either, in the Parliament House, or the Castle, on the first Mondays in the Months of *November, December, January, February, March and April.*

Let there be a large Gallery round the Chamber where they meet, with Liberty for any Gentleman to attend, who is desirous of Information in any Affairs, which may come before this Society.

Let no Number less than nine be allowed at any Time to form a general Board: Nor any Money be granted, nor any Work undertaken, nor Contract enter'd into for such Work, but in pursuance of an Order of such monthly general Board; to be entered upon their Books, and signed by at least nine Members then present; and the same also confirmed in like Manner at the next general Board.

Let this Society be capable of taking Grants and Devises of Lands, as well as Gifts and Legacies, without Limitation. And be also invested with such Powers, and Funds, as shall be judged requisite, for carrying on a Scheme of so extensive a Nature. Which will include every Means that can be thought of, for the Encouragement and Improvement of Tillage, and turning our Lands to the best Advantage, by the help of different Manures, different Kinds of Culture, or different Crops, either of Corn, Turnips, Grass-Seeds, Hops, Flax, Hemp, &c. The building also of Granaries, and the Management of the Corn in them: The draining of Loughs and Bogs, and converting



verting them into Arable, Meadow, or Pasture Grounds; the reclaiming of barren Heaths and Mountains; the promoting of Commerce by convenient Roads and Bridges; and the Ease of Carriage by a general inland Navigation, of which no Country is more capable. When to these we add the great Variety of different Kinds of Manufactures, which are now imported, and might be profitably carried on among our own People; the Mines and Minerals, which lie buried in the Bowels of our Mountains, without being worked by us; the vast Shoals of Fish, with which our Seas abound, and are yearly carried off by other Nations, to their immense Profit; the several ingenious and mechanical Arts, which render Life commodious; the Knowledge of Ship-building, and Navigation, necessary to the Merchant; the Study of the Belle Letters, Oratory, History, and Poetry; together with Law, and Civil Polity, proper to adorn the Gentleman: And beyond all these, the propagating of Morality and Religion among us; without which we should be neither good Subjects, sociable Creatures, nor friendly in our Behaviour, or honest in our Dealings one with another.

All these take in a wide Compass, and will require large Funds, and great Encouragements, before ever we can hope, to have them brought to any Degree of Perfection among us.

Let this Society appoint particular Committees, for particular Businesses, (for Instance, for Law, Religion, Education, Tillage, Navigation, Manufactures, &c. as shall be found necessary) who may meet, and adjourn, as they shall think proper, in the Intervals between each general Board; in order to prepare and digest such Matters, as relate to their particular Appointments, to be laid before the general Board.

Let half the Trustees, for the Crown, for the Counties, and for Religion, go out of Office, at the End of every two Years; (at first by Ballot, afterwards in their Turn) none of them to be capable of

being re-elected for four Years, except to supply accidental Vacancies occasioned by Death.

Let new Trustees be chosen into the Room of those who go out of Office, by the respective Electors before-mentioned, viz. four by the Crown ; one for each County by the Lords ; and two for each County by the Commons ; and two for each Province by the Clergy.

And if it should happen that no Parliament was in being, then the Election for the County-Trustees to be made by such Members of the last Parliament as shall assemble for that Purpose in the Parliament House, at the Time appointed.

Let this Election of new Trustees be held the first *Wednesday* in the Month of *March* ; by the Lords and Commons in the Parliament House ; and by the Clergy assembled in the Cathedral Church of the Provincial See.

And let a Return be made to the Society, by the Crown, the Lords, Commons, and Clergy, as soon as may be : And if no such Returns be made on before the monthly Meeting of the Society in *April*, then the Society itself to proceed to such new Election of Members.

And in case of the Death of any Member, another to be chosen in his Room by the Society at their next general Meeting, under the Restrictions and Limitations aforesaid ; such Person so chosen, to continue only for the respective Time, that the deceased Member would have been intitled to, had he not died ; and such temporary Choice to be no Bar to the same Person's being chosen, at the biennial and general Elections.

Let this Society also appoint a standing Committee, for each Province, and another for each County : Such Committees to continue for two Years.

The Provincial Committee to consist of three Trustees for each of the Counties in that Province ; to be chosen at first, one of them by the Lords, and two  
of



of them by the Commons ; and afterwards of course the Senior, or continuing Trustees to succeed to this Office.

Let these Provincial Committees also meet on regular and fixed Days, either in the Parliament House, or the Castle, viz. The *Leinster* Committee on the first *Thursday* ; the *Ulster* on the second *Thursday* : the *Munster* on the third *Thursday* ; and the *Connaught* on the fourth *Thursday*, in the Winter Months before-mentioned, (with a Power of adjourning as they shall think proper) in order to prepare and digest such Matters as relate to their respective Provinces, to be laid before the general Board for Approbation. Any three of the Members of these Committees to form a Quorum.

Let these Provincial Committees meet also in different Parts of their respective Provinces, on the first *Wednesday* in *May*, *June*, *July*, *August*, *September*, and *October* ; the Places of Meeting on said Days to be fixed every Year at the general Board for *April* ; and to be then published in the *Gazette*, and other News Papers.

Let these Provincial Committees examine into the State of their several Provinces ; make Enquiry what Improvements are most wanted, or could be most conveniently carried on ; take an Account of such as are actually begun, with the Progress made in them ; and receive Proposals from such as are disposed to carry on any new ones.

Let them also, from these fixed monthly Meetings, always adjourn to such Places, as they shall think proper, in order to inspect and view with their own Eyes these several Things ; and also to hear Complaints of Damages, and finally ascertain them, as to them shall seem reasonable.

Let Minutes be taken of all these Particulars, and entered on their Books, in order to be reported to the general Board next Winter.

But let not any Committee take upon them to grant any Sum of Money, nor engage in any Undertaking, nor contract for the same, any further, than they shall be from Time to Time impowered, for such Purposes, by the Orders or Resolutions of a general Board.

Let the County Committees consist of the other three Trustees for each County, who are not appointed of the provincial Committee; and let them meet and adjourn as they shall think proper, in order to examine, enquire and inspect, into the State of their particular County, and every thing relative thereto, in like Manner as the Provincial Committee may do in their respective Provinces; and to make their Reports both to the Provincial Committees, and also to the general Board. But not engage in any Work, farther than they shall be thereto authorized by the general Board.

Let these County Committees attend at such Provincial Meetings, as are to be held in their own, or any neighbouring County; and at such Adjournments as are to be made to any Places in their Neighbourhood, for viewing Improvements, or ascertaining Damages.

In Order to raise a Fund sufficient for the Purposes of so extensive a Scheme; let additional Duties be laid upon every Species of Luxury; such Duties to be collected, (without any additional Expence) either by the Officers of the Port, on the Importation of such as are foreign; or, the Officers of the Excise, on the Consumption; or, by the Hearth-money Collector, as a personal Tax, according as each Man shall voluntarily enlist himself in such a Class; or set himself down for the Privilege of using such and such \* Luxuries, either at his Table,

\* A Plan or Scheme of a Tax on Luxuries is very judiciously laid down, in the before-mentioned Treatise, by the late Sir *Matthew Decker*, and the same enlarged and further explained, in an Appendix to a late ingenious Essay on Trade, published by Mr. *Tucker* of *Bristol*. Both of these Treatises are



Table, in his Dress, Furniture, Equipage, or any other Way, for himself and his Family.

Let also the whole Profits, as well as the Direction of a national Bank be invested in this Society.

And as there will be no Necessity for continuing the present Corporations, intrusted with the Care of the Linen Manufacture, Inland Navigation, Turnpike Roads, First Fruits, &c. after this Society shall be established; therefore the distinct Funds already granted, or annually to be given for these distinct Purposes, may be also very properly vested in this national Society.

To supersede these particular Corporations, in order more effectually to carry on the general Improvement of the Kingdom, will not, I hope be interpreted as an Injury, or Affront to the present Trustees of any of them, because most of them, either now or hereafter, in their Turn, will probably be elected into this general Society: But, if these Corporations are continued, or others hereafter instituted, in Aid of the national Society, (which may perhaps be of Use in some particular Places, and for some particular Purposes) they must all be subordinate to this Society; and only enjoy such Revenues and Powers, and for such Times, as this Society shall think proper.

Let the whole Transactions and Accounts of this Society be laid before the Parliament every Session, for their Inspection and Direction; and all their Proceedings and Accounts then regularly printed and published.

I am not aware of any reasonable Objection, which can be made to this Scheme.

The Tax upon Luxuries cannot affect the Labourer, Manufacturer, or lower Kind of People, in any hurtful Degree; but it may rather be hoped, to be a Means of curing the Taste for those Follies, in many  
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are particularly adapted to the Comprehension of Gentlemen, and are in Truth very well worth the Perusal of every Person, who is desirous of understanding the true Interest of his Country.

of our middling Kind of People : And where it cannot Cure the Taste, (as among the rich and great, it is neither to be expected, nor desired,) there it will direct it to the Service of the Publick.

There will be no Room for Deceit or Imposition in the Execution of this Scheme ; because, as every Sum will be laid out, and every Improvement carried on, in the Neighbourhood, and under the Eye of the Trustees, in their several Counties, it will not be possible to deceive, or impose upon them. A Board meeting only in *Dublin*, and consisting of Members, who for the most Part reside there, are liable to be deceived ; Certificates are seldom refused, and Affidavits of the Persons concern'd are too easily swallowed. But here a Provision is made to prevent such Impositions. Three Gentlemen of affluent Fortunes, generally resident in their Counties, are appointed to inspect into every Thing that is doing in their respective Counties. They are to perambulate, or ride thro' their respective Counties, from Time to Time ; frequently to meet and confer together, and to make faithful Reports of the State of every Thing ; both, to the Provincial Committees, and also to the general Board. Three other Gentlemen also, of equal Fortune and Figure in their Counties, are to meet regularly in each Province, with a like Number from every other County in that Province ; and to inspect into whatever is doing, either in the Province at large, or in any of the Counties of it : They are also to ride to such Places, where Improvements are carrying on ; inspect into the Conduct of the Persons imployed in them ; view with their own Eyes ; and reward with their own Hands ; pursuant to such Powers, as shall be delegated to them by the general Board. The Members for each County, thus alternately passing into each others Districts ; viewing the several Operations ; conferring upon them, and comparing together the different Methods practised in each ; will be enabled, by this Method, to assist one another in bringing every Manufacture and Improvement



ment to the greatest Perfection. Thus also an Emulation will be raised, between the different Counties, and at the same Time the different Trustees for different Counties will be checks upon one another ; and prevent any Abuses of their Trust ; if we could suppose such Gentlemen to be capable of any such Abuse.

But above all ; their Rotation, (half of them going out, and others coming in every two Years, successively,) will effectually guard against all Abuse of their Trust, or Neglect of their Office ; and will raise such a Spirit and Emulation among them, that the only Contest will be, who shall exert himself most in the Service of his Country.

By this Scheme every Trustee (except those who go out at the End of the first two Years) will continue in Office four Years ; the new Members, who come in every two Years, will thus always have an equal Number of Members of two Years Experience, to associate with ; which will be fully sufficient for their Information, and for the carrying on of the publick Business to Advantage. When Men are suffered to grow old in Office, they contract a Stiffness, a Kind of Listlessness, which makes them indolent and slow ; new Men are always more active and vigorous.

This Rotation then will always supply you with some of Spirit and Activity, as well as others of Experience and Skill ; without any being continued so long, as to fall asleep in his Office.

And, tho' no Salary or Perquisite, is ever to be allowed to any of the Members of this Society, yet I imagine, there will be no Want of Candidates at the biennial Vacancies : For every Gentleman will be ambitious of the Honour of serving his Country in so high a Trust : And, from the Rotation, and quick Succession, each of them will pique himself in endeavouring to outdo those, who went before him.

And as all the Transactions and Accounts of this Society are to be constantly laid before the Parliament, it will be easie to correct any Errors, remedy Inconveniencies, and guard against Abuses, according as they

they are found to arise from unforeseen Occasions, or selfish Designs.

The numerous Meetings of the Society in the City, and of the several Committees, both in the City and Country, may perhaps to some appear burdensome, and be thought to take up too much of the Time of the Members thereof.

But this is one of the great Advantages of this Scheme, that it is calculated, to give constant and agreeable Entertainment, as well as useful Employment, to Men of large and independent Fortunes; who otherwise, (having no particular Business,) might perhaps otherwise pass away their vacant Hours, in useless Amusements.

Here then is a Society founded, both for the Amusement and Instruction of such Men; which will answer all the Purposes of an useful Academy; here they may acquire Knowledge in Trade, Manufactures, Tillage, mechanical Arts and Inventions, Oratory, Politics, the learned Sciences and Religion; in short, in every Thing, which is to render them useful to themselves, or serviceable to their Country: Here they may agreeably spend their leisure Hours, and become Proficients in experimental Knowledge, without the Fatigue and Confinement necessary in a Course of severe Study. Every Gentleman then, whether he has the Honour to speak in this Assembly as a Member, or only to sit in the Gallery as an Hearer, may here find both Amusement and Advantage in his Attendance.

I believe, no Scheme of this Sort was ever brought to its Perfection at first: If therefore this seems plausible, let the present Parliament make a Beginning, by enacting a Law, for constituting a Society, with such Powers and Funds, as may answer the Purpose here intended. If this, or any other Scheme, shall upon Tryal be found in any thing defective, the Omissions may be supplied in the ensuing Session; if any Abuses should hereafter get Footing, they may be removed, as fast as they are discovered.

If



If the Husbandman was deterred from his Business by a threatening Cloud, or impending Shower, he would never put his Hand to the Plough, nor commit his Seed to the Ground.

If the Mariner was affrighted by every Gust of Wind, he would never quit his Port, nor venture upon the Main. And if the General should scruple to lead on to an Attack, till he could demonstrate its Success, without a Possibility of a Miscarriage, he might waste his Time in fruitless Deliberations, and inactive Campaigns.

In like Manner, if we stand debating on the different Utility of different Expedients, proposed for the Improvement of ourselves and our Country, without fixing upon any of them; because, perhaps, (by Accident, or wilful Mismanagement) the Success of the best laid Designs may possibly be defeated; in such a Case, *Ireland* may again become a Desert, and impassible Morass; and our People as wild and rude, as the old Natives are reported to have been, who used to hide themselves in the Woods and Bogs.

Nothing is easier, than for captious Men to raise Objections to every new Expedient, which can be proposed: In the Eyes of such Men, Dwarfs swell into Giants, and Mole-hills rise into Mountains.

Whereas, if we ever hope to see this Kingdom flourish, it must be by trying, and giving Encouragement to every plausible Scheme.

And tho' such may sometimes fail in the Execution; or not come up to all, that the Inventor of them fondly imagined, or warmly promised; yet in the Execution, there is generally a Discovery made of something else, which perhaps proves equally useful to the Publick.

I cannot therefore think, that any Man of a publick Spirit will object to this Scheme; but indeed I am afraid, that some Persons may oppose it from a self-interested View; either, as having no Hopes of being chosen into the Management of it themselves; or, if  
they

they should be chosen, yet the Time for their continuing in Office is so short, that it will be scarce possible for them to make a Jobb of it. But to you, Gentlemen, who are the Guardians of the Publick, the Objections of such Men, will be its strongest Recommendation.

After all, I fear it may be said by some desponding Persons, that tho' the Scheme here proposed, should be allowed to be probable; yet it will be impossible for the Nation to defray the Expences of it. We are but just recovered from a Situation of the utmost Distress; Poverty and Famine are yet painted in the Faces of many of our People; we are so cramp'd in our Trade; so overdrawn by our Absentees; and the Nation already so much in Debt; that many will ask, how it will be possible for us (already so loaded and oppressed) to raise the Sums, which will be necessary for carrying on such Variety of Improvements, and in so extensive a Manner, as has been here proposed?

This indeed may seem a formidable Objection to many; but to me has no Weight at all. Because it is in every Man's power to make his Share of the Tax as little as he pleases; by abstaining, either in the Whole, or in Part, from those Luxuries, on which it is chiefly to be laid: But at all Events, every Person in every Situation, will be inabled to pay his Proportion of this Tax, by the greater Plenty and Cheapness, it will occasion in all the Articles of our Food and Clothing, and every other necessary of Life; so that upon the Whole, every Man in the Nation will be at first a Saver; and afterwards a considerable Gainer by it.

For by the Improvement of Tillage, and a more skilful Culture of our Lands, they may be made to yield more than double the Increase they now do; consequently every Farmer may afford to sell cheaper, and yet make a much greater Profit by every Acre of his Land than he can at present. The Necessaries of Life



Life being thus raised cheaper by the Farmer, every Weaver (for Instance) may afford to work cheaper; and the Skill of the Weaver being also increased by the Method proposed, he may finish every Web in a shorter Time, and in a better Manner than now he can. The same will hold with respect to the Flax-dresser, the Spinner, the Bleacher, and every other Person concerned in the Linen Trade; each of them may work cheaper, sell cheaper, and yet at the Year's End have a greater Profit upon their respective Labours than now they have.

The same Reasoning may be also applied to every other Kind of Manufacture, and every other Branch of Business which can be carried on in the Kingdom.

If then, by the Encouragement of this Society, our Husbandmen can have double Produce from their Lands, and our Tradesmen double the Quantity of their Manufactures, at the same Time that they are improved in Goodness; what is to hinder but that every one of them may afford to sell cheaper than now, and yet upon the whole make a greater Profit? The Effect of which will be, that all the Necessaries of Life will be in greater Plenty and cheaper, for our own Home-consumption; and both Necessaries and Manufactures, in much greater Quantities among us, ready to be sold to the Merchant Exporter at a cheaper Rate also. And the Merchant, thus buying cheaper at home, can afford to sell cheaper abroad, and by that Advantage can always command the foreign Markets, make quick Sales, quick Returns, take off larger Quantities of our Wares, and give such a brisk Circulation to Trade as must set all our Hands to work, and fill our Country with People.

What would it then signify if a Tax of two hundred thousand Pounds a Year was laid upon us, and put under the Direction of this Society, for the general Improvement of the Kingdom; provided that by such  
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Improvements we could save yearly two hundred thousand Pounds in our own Consumption, and at the same time could export four hundred thousand Pounds worth of Corn and Manufactures, more than we could ever do before ?

Here there would be not only a Saving of two hundred thousand Pounds in our own Consumption, as an Equivalent for the Tax laid on, but also a Surplus of four hundred thousand Pounds annually gained to the Nation.

And as Husbandry, Trades, and Manufactures would be every Day multiplying among us, as well as carrying on to still greater Degrees of Improvement ; so this National Gain would be every Year increasing. The Merchant would find Vent for more Goods, these would employ more Hands, People would flock into our Country, till the whole became a Land of Villages and Gardens ; our Ports would be crouded with Ships, importing and exporting all Kinds of Commodities ; our Rivers and Canals would be covered with Flats and Lighters, carrying from our Ports the various Materials for our different Manufactures, and bringing down the same again curiously wrought up, and made eight times more valuable by the Labour of our People.

This is a glorious Prospect, capable of rousing up the most sluggish Mortals, and giving Life and Activity to the most indolent Spirits : And here I shall leave it to dwell upon the Minds of all who have any Regard for themselves, their Posterity, or their Country.

I am,

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

G DE 58 Your, &c. &c.

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## P O S T S C R I P T.

**S**OME Persons may perhaps think that I have not been full enough, nor as particular as seems necessary in explaining those different Branches of Improvement which have been here recommended; and that others, perhaps equally useful, have been intirely omitted by me.—I confess the Charge, and shall only say, that I was chiefly sollicitous to prevent this little Essay from swelling into a large Volume, lest I should thereby trespass too far upon the Time and Patience of those Gentlemen to whom I had the Boldness to address it.—I wish it may not seem already too long and tiresome to any of them. Besides, if the general Design of it be so far approved, as that a Society should be founded for the Purposes of it, the particular Ways and Means of carrying on every particular Kind of Improvement to the greatest Advantage of the Kingdom, will come more properly before that Society: And a small Premium annually proposed by the Society, for the best Discourse on any particular Subject they think proper, will probably set many Heads and Hands to work; some or other of which cannot fail of producing something which may deserve their Approbation: Whereas it would be great Presumption in me, or any one Person, to think himself capable of writing, fully and judiciously, on all these several Subjects, by which our Country might be improved: It might be interpreted as little less than an arrogant Attempt, to ingross the whole Attention of the Publick; and might discourage an useful Emulation in others, to promote which, is a chief Part of the general Design of this Essay.

F I N I S.

D.

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